

**U.S. District Court**  
**District of Columbia (Washington, DC)**  
**CIVIL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 1:16-cv-01751-TNM**

AMERICAN CENTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE v.  
 DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
 Assigned to: Judge Trevor N. McFadden  
 Cause: 05:552 Freedom of Information Act

Date Filed: 08/30/2016  
 Jury Demand: None  
 Nature of Suit: 895 Freedom of  
 Information Act  
 Jurisdiction: U.S. Government Defendant

**Plaintiff**

**AMERICAN CENTER FOR LAW  
 AND JUSTICE**

represented by **Abigail A. Southerland**  
 AMERICAN CENTER FOR LAW &  
 JUSTICE  
 625 Bakers Bridge Avenue  
 Suite 105-121  
 Franklin, TN 37067  
 (800) 296-4529  
 Fax: (202) 546-9309  
 Email: [asoutherland@aclj.org](mailto:asoutherland@aclj.org)  
**LEAD ATTORNEY**  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

**Benjamin Paul Sisney**  
 AMERICAN CENTER FOR LAW &  
 JUSTICE  
 201 Maryland Avenue NE  
 Washington, DC 20002  
 (202) 546-8890  
 Fax: (202) 546-9309  
 Email: [bsisney@aclj.org](mailto:bsisney@aclj.org)  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

**Colby Mims May**  
 AMERICAN CENTER FOR LAW &  
 JUSTICE  
 201 Maryland Avenue NE  
 Washington, DC 20002  
 (202) 544-5171  
 Fax: (202) 544-5172  
 Email: [cmmay@aclj-dc.org](mailto:cmmay@aclj-dc.org)  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

**Craig L. Parshall**  
 AMERICAN CENTER FOR LAW &  
 JUSTICE  
 201 Maryland Avenue NE  
 Washington, DC 20002  
 (202) 546-8890  
 Fax: (202) 546-9309  
 Email: [parshallpolicy@gmail.com](mailto:parshallpolicy@gmail.com)  
**PRO HAC VICE**  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

**Olivia F. Summers**  
 AMERICAN CENTER FOR LAW &  
 JUSTICE  
 201 Maryland Avenue NE  
 Washington, DC 20002  
 (800) 202-8890  
 Fax: (202) 546-9309  
 Email: [osummers@aclj.org](mailto:osummers@aclj.org)

ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

**Stuart J. Roth**  
AMERICAN CENTER FOR LAW &  
JUSTICE  
201 Maryland Avenue NE  
Washington, DC 20002  
(202) 546-8890  
Fax: (202) 546-9309  
Email: [stuartroth1@gmail.com](mailto:stuartroth1@gmail.com)  
ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

**Jay Alan Sekulow**  
AMERICAN CENTER FOR LAW &  
JUSTICE  
201 Maryland Avenue NE  
Washington, DC 20002  
(202) 546-8890  
Fax: (202) 546-9309  
Email: [sekulow@aclj.org](mailto:sekulow@aclj.org)  
ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

V.

**Defendant**

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

represented by **Michael Leon Drezner**  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
Civil Division, Federal Programs Branch  
1100 L Street NW  
Room 12210  
Washington, DC 20005  
(202) 514-4505  
Fax: (202) 616-8470  
Email: [Michael.L.Drezner@usdoj.gov](mailto:Michael.L.Drezner@usdoj.gov)  
LEAD ATTORNEY  
ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

Date Filed	#	Docket Text
08/30/2016	<u>1</u>	COMPLAINT against DEPARTMENT OF STATE ( Filing fee \$ 400 receipt number 0090-4655963) filed by AMERICAN CENTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit, # <u>2</u> Exhibit, # <u>3</u> Summons, # <u>4</u> Summons, # <u>5</u> Summons, # <u>6</u> Civil Cover Sheet)(Sekulow, Jay) (Entered: 08/30/2016)
08/30/2016	<u>2</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Jay Alan Sekulow on behalf of AMERICAN CENTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE (Sekulow, Jay) (Entered: 08/30/2016)
08/30/2016	<u>3</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Stuart J. Roth on behalf of AMERICAN CENTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE (Roth, Stuart) (Entered: 08/30/2016)
08/30/2016		Case Assigned to Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly. (sth) (Entered: 08/30/2016)
08/30/2016	<u>4</u>	MOTION for Leave to Appear Pro Hac Vice :Attorney Name- Craig L. Parshall, :Firm- American Center for Law and Justice, :Address- 201 Maryland Avenue, NE, Washington, DC 20002. Phone No. - 202-546-8890. Fax No. - 202-546-9309 Filing fee \$ 100, receipt number 0090-4656125. Fee Status: Fee Paid. by AMERICAN CENTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Declaration, # <u>2</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Roth, Stuart) (Entered: 08/30/2016)
08/30/2016	<u>5</u>	SUMMONS (3) Issued Electronically as to DEPARTMENT OF STATE, U.S. Attorney and U.S. Attorney General (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Summons, # <u>2</u> Summons, # <u>3</u> Summons)(sth) (Entered: 08/30/2016)

08/30/2016	<u>6</u>	MOTION for Leave to Appear Pro Hac Vice :Attorney Name– Benjamin P. Sisney, :Firm– American Center for Law and Justice, :Address– 201 Maryland Avenue, NE, Washington, DC 20002. Phone No. – 202–546–8890. Fax No. – 202–546–9309 Filing fee \$ 100, receipt number 0090–4656147. Fee Status: Fee Paid. by AMERICAN CENTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Declaration, # <u>2</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Roth, Stuart) (Entered: 08/30/2016)
08/30/2016	<u>7</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Colby Mims May on behalf of AMERICAN CENTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE (May, Colby) (Entered: 08/30/2016)
08/31/2016	<u>8</u>	ORDER Establishing Procedures for Cases Assigned to Judge Colleen Kollar–Kotelly. Signed by Judge Colleen Kollar–Kotelly on August 31, 2016. (NS) (Entered: 08/31/2016)
09/01/2016		MINUTE ORDER GRANTING <u>4</u> Motion for Leave to Appear Pro Hac Vice of Attorney Craig L. Parshall, in order for him to appear as co–counsel for Plaintiff, contingent on said attorney filing a declaration certifying familiarity with this Court's Local Rules by no later than SEPTEMBER 12, 2016. Counsel shall promptly register for this Court's CM/ECF system. Signed by Judge Colleen Kollar–Kotelly on 9/1/2016. (lcckk3) (Entered: 09/01/2016)
09/01/2016		MINUTE ORDER GRANTING <u>6</u> Motion for Leave to Appear Pro Hac Vice of Attorney Benjamin P. Sisney, in order for him to appear as co–counsel for Plaintiff, contingent on said attorney filing a declaration certifying familiarity with this Court's Local Rules by no later than SEPTEMBER 12, 2016. Counsel shall promptly register for this Court's CM/ECF system. Signed by Judge Colleen Kollar–Kotelly on 9/1/2016. (lcckk3) (Entered: 09/01/2016)
09/02/2016	<u>9</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed as to the United States Attorney. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney on 8/31/2016. Answer due for ALL FEDERAL DEFENDANTS by 9/30/2016. (May, Colby) (Entered: 09/02/2016)
09/02/2016	<u>10</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed on United States Attorney General. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney General 09/01/2016. (May, Colby) (Entered: 09/02/2016)
09/02/2016	<u>11</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed. DEPARTMENT OF STATE served on 9/1/2016 (May, Colby) (Entered: 09/02/2016)
09/02/2016	<u>12</u>	LCvR 7.1 CERTIFICATE OF DISCLOSURE of Corporate Affiliations and Financial Interests by AMERICAN CENTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE (Sekulow, Jay) (Entered: 09/02/2016)
09/02/2016	<u>13</u>	NOTICE of Declaration Certifying Personal Familiarity With the Local Rules of This Court, pursuant to Court Order of September 1, 2016 by AMERICAN CENTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE (Sisney, Benjamin) (Entered: 09/02/2016)
09/07/2016	<u>14</u>	NOTICE of Declaration Certifying Personal Familiarity With the Local Rules of This Court, pursuant to Court Order of September 1, 2016 by AMERICAN CENTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE (Parshall, Craig) (Entered: 09/07/2016)
09/30/2016	<u>15</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Michael Leon Drezner on behalf of DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Drezner, Michael) (Entered: 09/30/2016)
09/30/2016	<u>16</u>	ANSWER to Complaint by DEPARTMENT OF STATE.(Drezner, Michael) (Entered: 09/30/2016)
10/03/2016	<u>17</u>	ORDER. The parties shall meet and confer and file a Joint Status Report no later than OCTOBER 31, 2016. Signed by Judge Colleen Kollar–Kotelly on 10/3/2016. (lcckk3) (Entered: 10/03/2016)
10/03/2016		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 10/31/2016. (dot) (Entered: 10/04/2016)
10/31/2016	<u>18</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Drezner, Michael) (Entered: 10/31/2016)

11/03/2016		MINUTE ORDER. The Court is in receipt of the parties' <u>18</u> Joint Status Report. The parties represent that Defendant intends to make an initial production of responsive documents to Plaintiff by December 28, 2016, and then make additional rolling productions every six weeks thereafter. At the parties' request, the Court ORDERS the parties to file an initial Joint Status Report indicating the status of these productions by no later than December 30, 2016. The parties shall file additional Joint Status Reports every 90 days thereafter. Signed by Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly on 11/3/2016. (lcckk3) (Entered: 11/03/2016)
11/03/2016		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 12/30/2016. (dot) (Entered: 11/03/2016)
12/30/2016	<u>19</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by AMERICAN CENTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE. (Sekulow, Jay) (Entered: 12/30/2016)
03/29/2017	<u>20</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by AMERICAN CENTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE. (Sekulow, Jay) (Entered: 03/29/2017)
04/12/2017	<u>21</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Abigail A. Southerland on behalf of AMERICAN CENTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE (Southerland, Abigail) (Entered: 04/12/2017)
06/28/2017	<u>22</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by AMERICAN CENTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE. (Southerland, Abigail) (Entered: 06/28/2017)
09/26/2017	<u>23</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Drezner, Michael) (Entered: 09/26/2017)
11/02/2017		Case directly reassigned to Judge Trevor N. McFadden. Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly is no longer assigned to the case. (ztnr) (Entered: 11/02/2017)
11/16/2017		MINUTE ORDER: In light of the recent assignment of this case to Judge McFadden, the parties are advised that the pre-existing schedule for this case remains in effect. The parties shall comply with all deadlines as previously ordered. SO ORDERED. Signed by Judge Trevor N. McFadden on 11/16/2017. (lctnm1) (Entered: 11/16/2017)
11/16/2017		ENTERED IN ERROR...MINUTE ORDER: In light of the recent assignment of this case to Judge McFadden, the parties are advised that the pre-existing schedule for this case remains in effect. The parties shall comply with all deadlines as previously ordered. SO ORDERED. Signed by Judge Trevor N. McFadden on 11/16/2017. (lctnm1) Modified on 11/16/2017. (hmc) (Entered: 11/16/2017)
11/16/2017		NOTICE OF CORRECTED DOCKET ENTRY: The second Minute Order entered on 11/16/2017, regarding the pre-existing schedule, was entered in error as a duplicate order. The parties shall disregard the entry. (hmc) (Entered: 11/16/2017)
12/29/2017	<u>24</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Drezner, Michael) (Entered: 12/29/2017)
03/30/2018	<u>25</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by AMERICAN CENTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE. (Southerland, Abigail) (Entered: 03/30/2018)
04/20/2018	<u>26</u>	STANDING ORDER Establishing Procedures for Cases Before Judge Trevor N. McFadden. The parties are hereby ORDERED to read and comply with the directives in the attached standing order. Signed by Judge Trevor N. McFadden on 4/20/18. (lctnm1) (Entered: 04/20/2018)
06/27/2018	<u>27</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by AMERICAN CENTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE. (Southerland, Abigail) (Entered: 06/27/2018)
08/30/2018	<u>28</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Olivia F. Summers on behalf of AMERICAN CENTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE (Summers, Olivia) (Entered: 08/30/2018)
09/26/2018	<u>29</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Drezner, Michael) (Entered: 09/26/2018)
10/03/2018	<u>30</u>	NOTICE of Change of Address by Michael Leon Drezner (Drezner, Michael) (Entered: 10/03/2018)
12/21/2018	<u>31</u>	Joint MOTION for Extension of Time to <i>File Joint Status Report</i> by AMERICAN CENTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE (Southerland, Abigail) (Entered: 12/21/2018)

01/03/2019		MINUTE ORDER granting Parties' <u>31</u> Joint Motion for Extension of Time. Parties shall file a Joint Status Report or before January 31, 2019. SO ORDERED. Signed by Judge Trevor N. McFadden on 1/3/19. (lctnm1) (Entered: 01/03/2019)
01/03/2019		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 1/31/2019. (hmc) (Entered: 01/03/2019)
01/08/2019	<u>32</u>	Unopposed MOTION to Stay by DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Drezner, Michael) (Entered: 01/08/2019)
01/08/2019		ORDER granting <u>32</u> Unopposed Motion to Stay. Upon considering the Defendant's <u>32</u> Motion to Stay, it is hereby ordered that this matter shall be stayed until Congress has restored appropriations to the Department of Justice. It is further ordered that the Defendant will notify the Court immediately upon resumption of appropriations. Signed by Judge Trevor N. McFadden on 1/8/2019. (lctnm1) (Entered: 01/08/2019)
01/28/2019	<u>33</u>	NOTICE by DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Drezner, Michael) (Entered: 01/28/2019)
01/28/2019		MINUTE ORDER. The Court hereby lifts the stay in this case. The parties are further ORDERED to file a status report, including a proposed production schedule, on or before February 1, 2019. SO ORDERED. Signed by Judge Trevor N. McFadden on 1/28/19. (lctnm1) (Entered: 01/28/2019)
01/28/2019		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 2/1/2019. (hmc) (Entered: 01/28/2019)
02/01/2019	<u>34</u>	Consent MOTION to Modify <i>Production Schedule</i> by DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Drezner, Michael) (Entered: 02/01/2019)
02/01/2019		MINUTE ORDER granting in part <u>34</u> Consent Motion to Modify Production Schedule. Defendant shall make its next production on or before March 6, 2019. Defendant shall continue to make productions of such records every six weeks, until production is complete. The parties are hereby ORDERED to file a Joint Status Report every 60 days, with the next such Joint Status Report to be filed on or before April 1, 2019. SO ORDERED. Signed by Judge Trevor N. McFadden. (lctnm1) (Entered: 02/01/2019)
02/04/2019		Set/Reset Deadlines: Defendant's next production due by 3/6/2019, and every six weeks thereafter. Joint Status Report due by 4/1/2019, and every 60 days thereafter. (hmc) (Entered: 02/04/2019)
04/01/2019	<u>35</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Drezner, Michael) (Entered: 04/01/2019)
05/31/2019	<u>36</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by AMERICAN CENTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE. (Southerland, Abigail) (Entered: 05/31/2019)
06/03/2019		MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of <u>36</u> Joint Status Report, the parties are hereby ORDERED to file a further Joint Status Report on or before June 28, 2019. SO ORDERED. Signed by Judge Trevor N. McFadden on 6/3/19. (lctnm1) (Entered: 06/03/2019)
06/03/2019		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 6/28/2019. (hmc) (Entered: 06/03/2019)
06/28/2019	<u>37</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by AMERICAN CENTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE. (Southerland, Abigail) (Entered: 06/28/2019)
07/01/2019		MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of <u>37</u> Joint Status Report, the parties are hereby ORDERED to file a further Joint Status Report on or before July 29, 2019. SO ORDERED. Signed by Judge Trevor N. McFadden on 7/1/19. (lctnm1) (Entered: 07/01/2019)
07/02/2019		Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 7/29/2019. (hmc) (Entered: 07/02/2019)
07/08/2019		MINUTE ORDER. The parties are hereby ORDERED to appear for a status conference on August 5, 2019 at 10 AM in Courtroom 2 before Judge Trevor N. McFadden. Signed by Judge Trevor N. McFadden on 7/8/19. (lctnm1) (Entered: 07/08/2019)

07/09/2019		Set/Reset Hearings: Status Conference scheduled for 8/5/2019, at 10:00 AM in Courtroom 2 before Judge Trevor N. McFadden. (tg) (Entered: 07/09/2019)
07/18/2019	<u>38</u>	Unopposed MOTION to Continue <i>Status Conference</i> by AMERICAN CENTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE (Southerland, Abigail) (Entered: 07/18/2019)
07/19/2019		MINUTE ORDER granting <u>38</u> Motion to Continue Status Conference. It is hereby ORDERED that the previously scheduled August 5, 2019 Status Conference is rescheduled to Wednesday, August 21, 2019 at 10 AM in Courtroom 2, before Judge Trevor N. McFadden. Signed by Judge Trevor N. McFadden on 7/19/19. (lctnm1) (Entered: 07/19/2019)
07/19/2019		Set/Reset Hearings: Status Conference rescheduled to 8/21/2019 at 10:00 AM in Courtroom 2 before Judge Trevor N. McFadden. (hmc) (Entered: 07/19/2019)
07/29/2019	<u>39</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Drezner, Michael) (Entered: 07/29/2019)
07/29/2019		MINUTE ORDER. Upon consideration of <u>39</u> Joint Status Report, the parties are hereby ORDERED to file a further Joint Status Report on or before September 23, 2019. It is also ORDERED that the previously scheduled August 21, 2019 Status Conference is rescheduled to September 30, 2019 at 10 AM in Courtroom 2, before Judge Trevor N. McFadden. Signed by Judge Trevor N. McFadden on 7/29/19. (lctnm1) (Entered: 07/29/2019)
07/30/2019		Set/Reset Deadlines/Hearings: Joint Status Report due by 9/23/2019. Status Conference rescheduled to 9/30/2019 at 10:00 AM in Courtroom 2 before Judge Trevor N. McFadden. (hmc) (Entered: 07/30/2019)
09/23/2019	<u>40</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by AMERICAN CENTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE. (Southerland, Abigail) (Entered: 09/23/2019)
09/26/2019	<u>41</u>	Unopposed MOTION to Vacate <i>Hearing</i> by DEPARTMENT OF STATE (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Drezner, Michael) (Entered: 09/26/2019)
09/26/2019		MINUTE ORDER denying <u>41</u> Motion to Vacate. It is also ORDERED that the previously scheduled September 30, 2019 Status Conference is rescheduled to October 8, 2019 at 10 AM in Courtroom 2 before Judge Trevor N. McFadden. The parties are further ORDERED to file a further Joint Status Report on or before October 4, 2019. The parties are reminded to comply with the Court's <u>26</u> Standing Order, including the provision about motions for extensions of time. Signed by Judge Trevor N. McFadden on 9/26/19. (lctnm1) (Entered: 09/26/2019)
09/26/2019		Set/Reset Deadlines/Hearings: Joint Status Report due by 10/4/2019. Status Conference rescheduled to 10/8/2019 at 10:00 AM in Courtroom 2 before Judge Trevor N. McFadden. (hmc) (Entered: 09/26/2019)
10/04/2019	<u>42</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by DEPARTMENT OF STATE. (Drezner, Michael) (Entered: 10/04/2019)
10/08/2019		Minute Entry for proceedings held before Judge Trevor N. McFadden: Status Conference held on 10/8/2019. Joint Status Report due by 11/1/2019. If the parties do not reach a settlement, the report should include a jointly proposed briefing schedule. (Court Reporter: Jeff Hook.) (hmc) (Entered: 10/08/2019)
10/31/2019	<u>43</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by AMERICAN CENTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE. (Southerland, Abigail) (Entered: 10/31/2019)